



# U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

## *Production Update*

Fiscal Year 2008, 1st Quarter



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

# Prepared for the United States Congress

**2008**  
**1st Quarter**

The Honorable John Conyers  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration,  
Citizenship, Refugee, Border Security and  
International Law, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Steve King  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration,  
Citizenship, Refugee, Border Security and  
International Law, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Robert Byrd  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations  
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The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
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The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
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Security and Refugees, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable John Cornyn  
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The Honorable David Obey  
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The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
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Committee

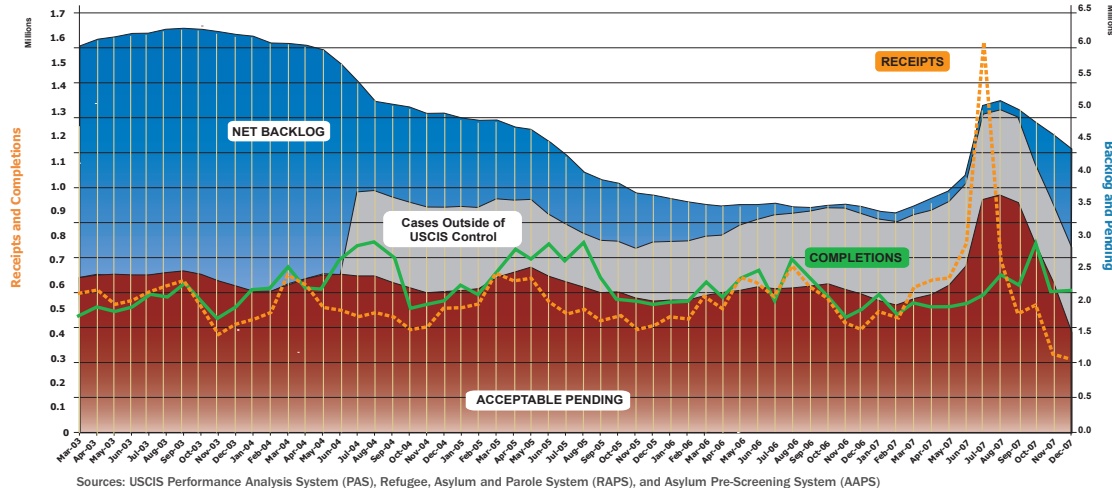
The Honorable David Price  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security,  
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Homeland  
Security, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland  
Security

The Honorable Peter King  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland  
Security

### Receipts, Completions, Pending and Backlog: All USCIS Forms



## Background

As the first quarter concluded, the net backlog increased by 1,407,404 cases, and currently stands at 1,528,793 cases. This represented an 11-fold increase from the end of the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2007. This is largely due to the surge of applications received this past summer. First quarter FY 2008 production increased from the previous quarter by 7%. The net backlog has now risen to stand at 34.9% of pending cases. During the first quarter, receipts decreased by 59% as compared to the preceding quarter. The gross backlog increased from 1,289,885 to 2,802,250 cases.

## Quality Assurance

During the first quarter of FY 2008, USCIS achieved a 99.8% accuracy rate for naturalization applications and a 99.5% accuracy rate for adjustment of status applications. Both rates exceed the minimum acceptable accuracy rate of 99%. In all applications where an error was identified, USCIS implemented corrective actions to prevent future problems.

## Production Management

**Receipts:** First quarter receipts were lower by 1,640,978 when compared to the preceding quarter. USCIS expected 1,260,337 receipts for the first quarter,

but only received 1,131,042 receipts. This amounted to only 90% of the expected receipts. Receipts for Form N-400 exhibited a quarterly drop of 401,106 cases, or nearly 80%. Only 103,352 N-400 cases were receipted in the first quarter, falling short of the quarterly expectation of 153,228 receipts. Form I-485 Regular/Adjustment of Status had a sizable drop in the first quarter, exhibiting a 74% quarterly decrease. The number of I-485 Regular/Adjustment of Status cases received was 15% lower than the 123,180 cases expected. The decrease in receipts for Form I-485 was from the visas for all EB filings being made current during the fourth quarter of FY 2007. Form I-765 had a substantial decrease in its level of receipts, posting a 57% quarterly decrease. Form I-821 had a decrease in its receipts, posting a 97,150 quarterly decrease by the end of the first quarter.

**Completions:** USCIS completed 1,900,527 applications, exceeding the previous quarter's production by 130,538 cases. Moreover, the first quarter completions exceeded expectations by 42% (565,421 cases). In the first quarter, total completions exceeded total receipts by nearly 770,000 cases. The form type with the largest reduction in completions were I-130's. There were 30,589 fewer cases completed for this form type during the first quarter. Of the three highest effort form types, I-485 Regular, I-130, and N-400, USCIS completed fewer cases than the previous quarter.

## FY 2008 First Quarter Production Data

Form	Receipts	Completions	Pending	Previous End of Quarter Pending	Net Backlog <sup>1</sup>	Gross Backlog	Previous End of Quarter Net Backlog <sup>1</sup>	Previous End of Quarter Gross Backlog	Net Backlog as % of Pending
N-400	103,352	194,420	1,061,189	1,128,966	716,550	913,673	-	113,378	68%
I-485 Regular	104,256	160,240	706,887	754,783	414,450	559,021	-	150,747	59%
I-485 Indochinese	40	74	290	295	245	250	221	223	84%
I-485 Asylee	11,047	16,796	70,088	69,031	53,453	57,638	30,750	35,489	76%
I-485 Refugee	11,898	6,340	55,015	47,759	42,547	43,105	27,044	27,569	77%
I-130	38,277	159,159	1,291,100	1,405,164	78,372	987,034	15,596	897,216	6%
I-90	160,027	146,896	173,089	164,230	-	-	-	-	0%
I-129	71,181	97,976	44,033	59,889	-	1,253	-	1,863	0%
I-131 Adv/Pri	43,596	168,843	71,087	186,887	26,764	27,491	-	-	38%
I-131 RP/RTD	28,032	20,525	72,945	63,782	43,440	44,913	22,927	25,033	60%
I-140	31,991	30,665	147,923	147,166	102,572	108,692	4,472	11,662	69%
I-539	49,244	45,476	56,487	52,394	5,522	7,243	-	-	10%
I-751	49,482	29,529	99,653	80,153	14,039	14,810	-	-	14%
I-765	279,053	564,734	220,679	474,597	-	-	-	-	0%
I-821	78,496	163,596	95,221	159,873	-	-	-	-	0%
N-600/N-643	11,076	21,044	43,672	48,786	-	-	-	-	0%
I-589	5,934	10,011	24,546	27,073	-	-	-	-	0%
I-881	1,260	2,590	5,334	6,318	-	-	-	-	0%
I-867	1,150	1,233	74	142	-	-	-	1,140	0%
I-102	3,995	4,300	4,247	4,389	-	252	-	-	0%
I-129F	10,976	14,487	25,858	29,159	-	445	-	-	0%
I-360	3,934	4,277	11,739	11,571	677	3,515	454	3,369	6%
I-526	268	165	521	415	-	-	-	-	0%
I-600/600A	5,842	7,045	7,001	6,755	1,159	1,159	280	280	17%
I-687/690/695/698/700 Legalization/SAW	1,207	3,853	5,650	6,492	2,764	2,800	1,971	2,006	49%
I-730	4,803	4,047	26,614	25,539	15,808	16,550	13,329	13,982	59%
I-817	543	1,162	1,774	2,116	-	179	-	156	0%
I-824	6,397	5,924	11,137	10,874	-	-	-	-	0%
I-829	61	34	333	306	208	209	199	199	62%
I-914	97	122	138	105	-	-	-	-	0%
I-905	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N-300	16	16	70	85	12	12	21	21	17%
N-336	1,693	2,118	5,964	6,904	1,995	1,995	1,678	1,678	33%
N-470	143	108	345	398	44	44	81	83	13%
N-565	6,467	5,953	23,851	22,490	4,946	6,635	-	1,320	21%
N-644	2	-	3	1	1	1	1	1	33%
N-648	2,442	3,569	2,769	3,087	-	-	-	-	0%
Immigrant Visas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EOIR Adjustment Processing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waivers	2,764	3,200	10,315	9,974	3,225	3,331	2,365	2,470	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,131,042</b>	<b>1,900,527</b>	<b>4,377,641</b>	<b>5,017,948</b>	<b>1,528,793</b>	<b>2,802,250</b>	<b>121,389</b>	<b>1,289,885</b>	<b>35%</b>
FY 2007	7,663,517	6,271,024	5,017,948		121,389				2%
FY 2006	6,302,956	6,855,771	3,485,706		49,031				1%
FY 2005	6,279,199	7,603,900	3,921,974		951,559				24%
FY 2004	5,982,489	7,303,321	5,083,628		1,438,795				28%

<sup>1</sup> In general, backlog will fluctuate depending on how current completions for each application type fare against cases received six months prior. In addition inventory adjustments and the availability of visas have an effect on backlog.

**Active Case Management:** In an effort to better manage its production and allocate its resources in an efficient manner, USCIS has implemented “Active Case Management” (ACM). Pursuant to ACM, cases that do not have an available visa or an FBI name check, and cases that are in suspense for other reasons deemed beyond USCIS’s control have

been taken out of the production queue. This allows USCIS to focus its attention on those cases that stand ready for adjudication. Cases held in suspense have been discounted from the backlog computation to better reflect the number of cases that are within the agency’s control. These deductions are based on figures taken from the National File Tracking System



(NFTS), Receipt Alien File Accountability Control System (RAFACS) and other USCIS systems used in implementing and monitoring ACM.

## Asylum Division Active Case Management:

USCIS is now also applying the concept of active case management to I-589 Asylum and NACARA 203 applications that are not available for adjudication for reasons outside of USCIS's control. The deductions as of the end of the fourth quarter were 6,087 I-589 Asylum and NACARA 203.

## Developments

**Agency Changes:** The unprecedented number of receipts received during the fourth quarter FY 2007 necessitated an aggressive action plan. The Surge Elimination Blueprint (SEB) was developed late last fiscal year to provide USCIS the increased personnel and enhanced systems qualified adjudications to more quickly and efficiently reduce the number of pending cases. Production plans were also developed during FY 2007 fourth quarter to concentrate FY 2008 overtime allotments and to improve operational procedures to help limit processing delays.

## Analysis

**N-400 Regular:** N-400 Regular receipts dropped by nearly 80% in the first quarter of FY 2008, when compared to the preceding quarter. Due to the fee adjustment and other factors, USCIS received a substantially higher level of receipts for this form type than originally projected in the previous quarter, thus leading to a substantial drop in the first quarter FY 2008. Completions during the same period were close to 10% below the previous quarter's completions.

**I-485 Regular:** Form I-485 Regular completions were 17% higher in the first quarter of FY 2008 when compared to the first quarter of FY 2007. Receipts received during the first quarter of FY 2008 were 22% lower than the same period in the first quarter of FY 2007. The net backlog for this form type re-emerged as

## Cycle Time (in months) FY 2008 to date

Form	Net Cycle Time	Gross Cycle Time	Cycle Time Goal
N-400	7.8	9.5	5
I-485 Regular	6.6	9.0	4
I-485 Indochinese	16.7	16.9	4
I-485 Asylee	14.8	13.6	4
I-485 Refugee	13.4	13.5	4
I-130	6.9	20.7	6
I-90	3.3	3.3	6
I-129	1.8	2.0	2
I-131 Adv/Prl	4.2	4.2	3
I-131 RP/RTD	6.3	6.4	3
I-140	7.5	7.9	4
I-539	3.3	3.4	3
I-751	6.9	6.9	6
I-765	2.5	2.6	3
I-821	3.2	3.2	6
N-600/N-643	5.9	5.9	6
I-589	3.8	4.9	6
I-881	3.4	4.0	6
I-867	0.2	0.2	0.5
I-102	2.9	3.2	3
I-129F	5.3	6.1	6
I-360	6.5	8.6	6
I-526	5.4	5.9	6
I-600/600A	3.6	3.6	3
I-687/690/695/698/700 Legalization/SAW	11.8	11.9	6
I-730	15.4	15.9	6
I-817	5.8	6.7	6
I-824	4.3	4.6	6
I-829	16.1	16.1	6
I-914	3.8	5.0	6
I-905	n/a	n/a	6
N-300	7.2	7.2	6
N-336	9.0	9.0	6
N-470	6.9	6.9	6
N-565	7.7	8.3	6
N-644	0 pending	0 pending	6
N-648	2.8	2.8	6
Immigrant Visas	0 pending	0 pending	2
EOIR Adjustment Processing	0 pending	0 pending	2
Waivers	8.8	8.9	6

a result of the visa regression for this form type. The net backlog for this group of forms stands at 414,450 cases.

**I-821:** The level of receipts for Form I-821 are cyclical as the receipts are directly correlated to the various countries that are designated for Temporary Protected Status. As re-registration periods open and close, the level of receipts are affected. The level of receipts decreased during the first quarter as a re-registration period was closed. There were 78,496 Form I-821

cases received during the first quarter, as compared to 175,646 cases received during the previous quarter.

## Asylum Division

During the first quarter of FY 2008, the Asylum Division completed 13,834 applications, 5,490 more applications than it received during that same period. A net or gross backlog did not exist for any Asylum Division form type in the first quarter. The backlog calculation for Asylum form types is now based on receipts rather than completions.

## Glossary

**Receipts:** The number of new cases receipted during the reporting period.

**Completions:** Refers to the the number of cases that are approved or denied during the reporting period.

**End Pending:** The total number of cases on-hand at the end of the period which require a final adjudicative action.

**Acceptable Pending:** This is the number of pending cases that are not considered backlogged. This number is determined summing the number of receipts per the form type's production goal. For example, if a form type has a production goal of six months, the pending is allowed to have six months worth of receipts before any of its cases are considered backlogged.

**Gross Backlog:** This is a calculated number based on pending cases that are beyond (older) the acceptable pending cases. Cases generally excluded for FBI Name Check or other factors beyond USCIS' control are considered a part of the gross backlog. For example, if a form type has a production goal of six months, cases that are still pending after you have calculated six months of receipts are considered backlogged.

**Net Backlog:** Net Backlog is calculated by excluding deductible cases (cases that are outside of USCIS' control) from the gross backlog figure.

**Cycle Time:** Refers to the number of months of receipts that equal the current level of pending cases. For example, if the current pending level of a particular form type is 30 cases, and 10 cases were receipted for the past three months (30 receipts), your cycle time would be three months for this form type.

## USCIS Forms

CIS Form No.	CIS Form Description
I-485	Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
I-526	Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur
I-130 Spouse	Alien Relative
I-129F	Alien Fiance(e)
I-600/600A	Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative
I-130 Other Relative	Alien Relative
I-360	Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant
I-140	Petition for Alien Worker
I-129	Nonimmigrant Worker
I-129S N.A.W.C	Nonimmigrant Petition Based on Blanket L
I-129 NI.W.C.S.	Nonimmigrant Petition Based on Blanket L
I-129 NI.W.E.S.	Nonimmigrant Petition Based on Blanket L
I-90	Replace Permanent Resident Card
I-539	To Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status
I-914	T Nonimmigrant Status
I-131	Application for Travel Document
I-102	Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Document
I-193	Waiver for Passport and/or Visa
I-730	Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition
I-17	Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Students
I-765	Employment Authorization
I-751	Remove the Conditions of Residence
I-829	Entrepreneur to Remove Conditions
I-821	Temporary Protected Status
I-817	Family Unity Benefits
I-175/I-190 BCC	Border Crossing Card
I-824	Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition
I-589	Asylum and Withholding of Removal
I-687	Status as a Temporary Resident Under Section 245A of the INA
I-698	Adjust Status from Temporary to Permanent Resident
I-690	Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility Under Sections 245A or 210 of the INA
I-694	Notice of Appeal of Decision Under Sections 245A or 210 of the INA
I-695	Application to Replace Form I688A
I-881	Suspension of Deportation or Special Rule Cancellation of Removal
I-905	Permission to Issue Health Care Certification
N-400	Application for Naturalization
N-600/N-643	Application for Certificate of Citizenship
N-644	Application for Posthumous Citizenship
N-648	Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions
N-470	Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes
N-565	Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document
N-300	Application to file Declaration of Intention
N-336	Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings
N-600K	Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate